SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

www.southernscenicroute.co.nz

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SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

This journey between Queenstown and Dunedin is approximately 610 kilometres(km) of natural and cultural attractions laid out one after the other - wildlife viewing, short walks, mountain-biking, fishing, hunting, boating, camping, tramping and caving– making it an ideal drive for those with time to explore. The route is well signposted, guiding visitors from Queenstown to Dunedin (or vice versa), via sealed country roads and highways.

The Southern Scenic Route (SSR) is a journey that allows access to deserted beaches, lush rainforest, pristine lakes and stunning mountain vistas.

ORIGIN OF THE ROUTE

The Southern Scenic Route was originally conceived by the people of Tuatapere, Western Southland, who, in1985, decided to share the delights of southern New Zealand with all those who took the time to venture down their way. Their determination and perseverance in the face of initial official reluctance, has created a wonderful holiday experience and entertained admiring visitors from all over the world. This publication is the official guide to the route - we hope you find it useful.

We would appreciate your feedback - please email your comments to: info@southernscenicroute.co.nz

Gemstone Beach, Western Southland

ABOUT THE ROUTE

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED

The Southern Scenic Route is sealed, but roads to some attractions may not be. Some points of interest may be across private land, and access is by courtesy of the landowner. On unsealed roads, slow down and drive to the conditions. If you come across sheep and cattle being moved along roads, please drive slowly and show consideration.

FOLLOW THE SIGNS

The Southern Scenic Route is indicated by brown signs with the symbol below.

GOOGLE MAPS

Let us guide you through the Southern Scenic Route.

1. Turn on LOCATION on your phone or tablet
2. Go to our website: www.southernscenicroute.co.nz/activities
3. Tap on ⛶ in the Google Map
4. Tap on a point of interest to get DIRECTIONS from where you are

SAFETY TIPS

- Ensure you have enough fuel in your vehicle as distances between fuel stops can be large
- Dress for the weather (and be prepared for it to change)
- Carry and apply insect repellent, particularly in the Hauroko and Borland areas
- Keep at least 20 metres away from wildlife
- Even the easiest walks need safety sense - be prepared!
- Stay on the track and remain behind any barriers
- Check tide times before you start
- Enjoy your journey and please travel safely and with care

Driving the Southern Scenic Route

PRE-VISIT INFO

FREEDOM CAMPING

There are many camping grounds with excellent facilities along the Southern Scenic Route. We recommend that you stay in Holiday Parks, DOC camping grounds or other designated areas. Freedom camping is not permitted outside these areas without the express permission of councils and landowners. Please obey signs and if in doubt, ask local person or information centre. For further information see: www.freedomcamping.org.

RECYCLING

Help us protect our people, land, water and native species, so that these treasures can be shared now and in the future. You can contribute to recycling in New Zealand during your travels by supporting sustainable products and businesses, and making a dedicated effort to use the many recycling stations.

ACCOMMODATION

To find and book accommodation please visit the regional websites shown on page 44.

WALKING

The scenery along the Southern Scenic Route is breathtaking, and this experience is amplified when walking the various tracks. Take a leisurely day walk or go bush for a few days on a Great Walk - there are options to suit your level of fitness and experience, all providing an opportunity to explore the wilderness first hand. Visit a Department of Conservation office or www.doc.govt.nz for further information on tracks, walking independently and guided walks.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Whether you're looking for an adrenalin pumping technical track or an easy family ride, the Southern Scenic Route features tracks that are ideal for two wheeled exploring. Some tracks are designed for both walkers and bikers, so please keep to your left and use your bell or call out when passing. On more adventurous tracks, be prepared to carry bikes over difficult sections. Some local operators provide options to combine walking and biking over multi-day journeys.

FISHING

The Southern Scenic Route traverses some of the finest trout fishing spots in New Zealand. These waters include lakes Wakatipu, Te Anau and Manapouri, and the Mataura, Oreti, Mararoa, Waiau and Aparima rivers. Fishing licences are required to fish for trout and can be bought from sports/fishing stores, Fish & Game offices in Dunedin or Invercargill, or online at: www.fishandgame.org.nz. Saltwater fishing is popular around the south coast with target species varying by location, from blue cod to tuna and shark. No fishing licence is required to catch sea fish; however there are strictly enforced bag limits which vary depending on the location.

ALWAYS KEEP LEFT

GEOLOGY, FLORA AND WILDLIFE

GEOLOGY

The drive features a myriad of landscapes, shaped by natural processes in New Zealand's young, but varied, geological history. Lakes Wakatipu, Te Anau and Manapouri were formed by the gouging action of huge glaciers, which then melted, creating lakes. Sandstone hills, formed 150 million years ago during uplifting and folding of the earth's crust, are visible west of Tuatapere. Limestone rock outcrops and caves at Clifden were created by the streams. In The Catlins, distinctive parallel ridges and valleys show the Southland syncline.

WILDLIFE VIEWING

The Southern Scenic Route provides opportunity to view some of New Zealand's unique wildlife. Visitors need to appreciate that these animals are wild and approaching them may create danger for yourself and/or the animal. Please adhere to the protocols as outlined. All native animals are protected by law and many species are endangered, so simple rules are designed to enhance the experience for you and to protect wildlife.

- Use viewing platforms and hides where provided and follow all instructions
- Remain at least 20m (or further in some instances) away from all wildlife, and never block their path
- Do not feed or touch any wildlife
- Be aware of areas where dogs are prohibited (including National Parks and many other reserves), and abide by these conditions – they are a threat to New Zealand wildlife

Note: It is an offence to disturb or harass any native wildlife

FOREST BIRDS

Bellbird/korimako, tui, New Zealand pigeon/kukupa kereru, parakeet/ kakariki, fantails/piwakawaka, tomtits/ miromiro and grey warblers/ riroriro, are likely to be seen in forest areas. The yellowhead/ mohua may be found in the beech forest of The Catlins Conservation Park.

FLORA

Beech/tawhai forest dominates the Fiordland National Park and the Takitimu ranges. Other species present include kamahi and podocarps such as miro, rimu, kahikatea and totara. There is an abundance of ferns, mosses and perching plants due to the high volume of rainfall. The Catlins are clothed in rimu, kamahi, rata and beech/tawhai forest, making it the largest area of native forest on the South Island's east coast.

PENGUINS

Blue penguins/Korora nest in burrows along the coastline. About 450 pairs of endangered yellow-eyed penguins/ hoiho are found on the south-east coast. Designated viewing platforms and hides at Nugget Point and Curio Bay are the best vantage points. Yellow eyed penguins/hoiho are extremely shy and vulnerable to disturbance. Please adhere to the guideline signs on site.

SEABIRDS

On the coast, look out for Stewart Island shags/koau, migratory muttonbirds/titi and white-fronted terns/tara. Estuaries are rich habitats for wading birds, like royal spoonbills/ kotuku-ngutupapa, wrybills/ngutu pare or parore, white herons/kotuku and dotterels.

SEALS AND SEALIONS

New Zealand (NZ) fur seals/kekeno favour the boulder beaches and rocky platforms of the south coast. Between 300 and 500 pups are born at the Nugget Point/Tokata rookery each year. The NZ sea lion/whakahoe prefers sandy beaches and dunes, often resting at Waipapa Point, Surat, Cannibal and Porpoise bays. Both species leave pups on shore while their mothers fish. Do not disturb them. These are powerful, wild animals and can be dangerous if they are approached too closely. Keep at least 20m away from seals and sea lions. Southern elephant seals/ihupuku sometimes visit Nugget Point/Tokata during late summer.

WHALES

For the traveller with a keen eyesight you may be able to spot the spout of a Southern Right Whale on their migration path from the coastal high points of the Catlins or in Foveaux Strait from atop Bluff Hill.

HECTOR'S DOLPHINS/PAHU

During summer the world's smallest dolphin is at home in Te Waewae and Porpoise bays. Please follow these guidelines should you encounter dolphins in the water:

- When entering the water, do so at least 50m from any dolphin
- When swimming, surfing or kayaking, do not approach dolphins; they may choose to come to you
- Please do NOT feed dolphins
- Dolphins have sensitive skin – please do not touch them

Yellow Eyed Penguin/Hoiho, The Catlins

PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH

MAORI HISTORY

Maori have occupied the south of the South Island for approximately 1,000 years. Permanent settlements at Riverton/Aparima and Colac Bay/Oraka were linked to a network of mahika kai: seasonal coastal camps that oral traditions say stretched around the south coast. Early Maori midden sites are visible at Tahakopa Bay in The Catlins and the Clifden caves have evidence of travelling Maori parties.

Origins

As early as 1350, fishing was beginning to replace moa hunting and sealing for Maori. In local dialect the 'Ng' as in Ngai Tahu is often replaced with a 'K' as in Kai Tahu. Kai Tahu whanui are the indigenous people of the southern islands of New Zealand. Waitaha iwi from Rarotonga were the first settlers and named the South Island Te Wai Pounamu meaning "the Greenstone Isle", as well as prominent features such as Aoraki/Mount Cook. In the late 1500s Kati Mamoe arrived from the Wellington area. Soon after, they were followed across Cook Strait/ Te Moana a Raukawa by two powerful Ngai Tahu hapu/clan groupings, arriving over the space of two generations. By the mid eighteenth century the three had fused into one iwi.

Early population

By 1800 there were about 20,000 people calling themselves Kai Tahu however there were still groupings of people, particularly in the south, who maintained a strong Kati Mamoe identity. Today, Kai Tahu people remain a strong tribe in the south; their influence being visible throughout the Southern Scenic Route.

EUROPEAN AND CHINESE HISTORY

The first European (Pakeha) visitors to the south were sealers. Whaling was the next industry, and Riverton/Aparima was established as a base by John Howell in 1836. Early Kai Tahu and European interaction was peaceful, and lead to natural intermarriage between Pakeha and Maori. Mixed-race settlements were formed around whaling bases, including Port Molyneux, Tautuku and Waikawa but, like their quarry, these were to soon disappear.

Striking Gold

As European explorers ventured inland they paved the way for pioneering farmers. In 1861, gold was discovered. Several gold rushes ensued with thousands of prospectors arriving, some from Australia and China, to exploit gold in the Shotover and Arrow rivers (amongst other places). Goldmining history, including Chinese settlements, can be found at several places including Arrowtown. Orepuki and Round Hill in the Longwoods hosted smaller gold rushes. Dunedin also benefited from the gold rush days, briefly becoming New Zealand's largest town.

Timber and Hydropower

Sawmills have been an important part of the south's history. From axes and bullocks the industry developed sophisticated steam-powered haulers, locomotives and mills. The Owaka River was also a site of immense activity - in 1872 more timber left the Owaka River than any other South Island port. In the 1920s the mill at Port Craig was the largest in the country. Construction of a railway line from Balclutha began in 1879, reaching Owaka in 1896 and its final railhead at Tahakopa in 1915. In its wake followed sawmills, schools and farms. As the accessible forests were milled and burned, pioneer farmers turned the land to agricultural use. Hydro-electric development of the Waiau Valley began in 1925 raising the level of Lake Monowai for power generation. In 1971 the Manapouri hydro station was completed, diverting water from lakes Te Anau and Manapouri to Doubtful Sound/Patea and supplying power to the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter near Bluff.

Traditional Maori Carving

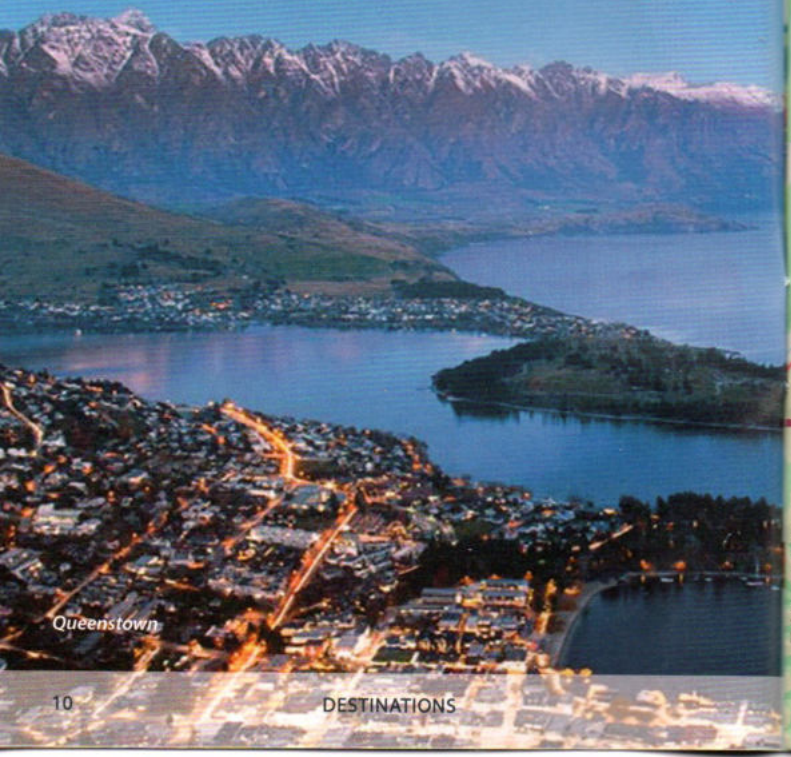
QUEENSTOWN

Nestled on the shores of Lake Wakatipu and surrounded by dramatic mountain ranges, Queenstown is the beating heart of the Wakatipu Basin. Queenstown can be the start or finishing point of your journey on the Southern Scenic Route.

The area has captured the hearts and imaginations of visitors since the first Maori came in search of pounamu (greenstone) and the giant Moa bird. More recently, gold miners, adventurers, filmmakers, wine enthusiasts and Hollywood stars have been drawn to this majestic region and its alpine energy.

With a reputation as the Southern Hemisphere's premier four season lake and alpine resort, Queenstown offers so much choice that no two days need ever be the same. The cosmopolitan lake and alpine resort has the perfect mix of action and relaxation whether you're looking for family-fun, romance, rejuvenation, or adrenaline-fuelled adventure. In fact, as the birthplace of world-first innovations like jet boating and bungy jumping there's no better place than Queenstown to challenge yourself.

- Southern Scenic Route
- Scenic Side Trips
- Other Roads
- State Highway Number
- Walkway or Walking Track
- i-SITE Visitor Centre
- Local Information Centre
- Numbered Attraction
- Public Toilets
- Fuel Station
- Holiday Park or Camp Ground
- Campervan Dump Station
- Photo Point
- Airport



QUEENSTOWN

RELAX

Those looking for relaxation can enjoy world-class golf courses, explore backcountry on foot or bike, sample award-winning Central Otago wines and superb local cuisine or explore the town's many shops, galleries, bars and cafes.

GEAR UP

This vibrant, compact town offers a huge range of adrenaline pumping activities like skydiving, bungy jumping, jet boating, zip lining, rafting, paragliding, skiing, snowboarding, mountain biking and hiking.

HISTORY

Visit the nearby picturesque Arrowtown to discover the rich history of goldmining. Its quaint tree-lined streets are a seamless blend of past and present, featuring old miners' cottages, and a restored Chinese Village alongside intimate cafes, boutiques and galleries.

A true slice of paradise sits a spectacular 45-minute drive northwest of Queenstown at the end of Lake Wakatipu. Glenorchy is the gateway to some of New Zealand's most epic scenery and once there you can enjoy the tranquillity of the wilderness, lakeside walks, jet boating, horse riding, kayaking and hiking.
Accommodation options range from budget to five-star, with holiday parks, backpacker properties and motels alongside B&Bs, international hotel chains, and luxury lodges. Start planning your own adventure at www.queenstownnz.nz.

THE QUEENSTOWN TRAIL

The Queenstown Trail was launched in late 2012 and is a 120km network of trails which link the popular tourism spots of Queenstown Bay, Frankton, Lake Hayes, Arrowtown, and Gibbston's 'valley of vines'. Classed as a New Zealand Great Ride, the trail follows pristine rivers, lakes and mountain ranges and provides easy access to iconic Queenstown experiences including bungy jumping, jet boating and wine tasting. The trail has an easy to intermediate gradient and is designed for maximum choice - it can be cycled or walked as a whole or in sections depending on time and preference.

1 QUEENSTOWN HILL TIME WALK

2 hr return walk
The walk starts from Belfast Terrace, within walking distance from the Queenstown CBD and gives 360 degree panoramic views over Queenstown and Lake Wakatipu at the top. Information panels guide walkers along a Queenstown 'time walk', culminating in the 'Basket of Dreams' millennium sculpture.

2 QUEENSTOWN GARDENS

30 min loop walk
This easy, flat walk starts at the lakefront and follows the peninsula around to Frankton Arm with sweeping views up the lake to Glenorchy and down to Kingston.

FRANKTON

The gateway to and from Queenstown is a great starting point to explore the region. Activities in Frankton include walking or biking on the local lakeside tracks, golf and swimming, then stock up at the Remarkables Park shopping centre adjacent to the airport, or at nearby The Landing or Five Mile, and head south on SH6.

3 FRANKTON ARM WALKWAY

1 hour walk each way
A popular stroll or bike along the lake edge between Queenstown and Frankton. Please keep to the left and bikers use your bell or call when passing. Access this track from Peninsula Street in Queenstown, the Frankton Reserve in Frankton or at various points along Frankton Road.

4 KELVIN PENINSULA TRACK

1 hour walk each way
This leisurely lakeside walk starts at Kawarau Falls Bridge and follows along the Frankton Arm's sunny southern shoreline.

5 JACK'S POINT TRACK

1.5 hr walk each way
A lakeside walk with superb lake and mountain views through undulating open grasslands. This track starts at Jardine Park at the end of Poplar Drive on Kelvin Heights Peninsula.

6 REMARKABLES CONSERVATION AREA

Accessed by 12km of gravel road from SH6, the Lake Alta Track is a two hour alpine hike in summer conditions. The track climbs gradually from the base building then crosses the Rastus Burn and onto a cirque valley beneath the Single and Double Cone which Maori called Kawarau. Note: Please use the toilet facilities at the base building. Waste matter does not break down in this alpine habitat. Hiking equipment is required for this track.

7 WYE CREEK TRACK

4 hour return walk
Entry to this track is accessed by an open gate from SH6, just before the Wye Creek bridge. This track crosses private land - please respect landowner's wishes. A steep 45 minute climb follows the pipeline to a small hydro dam, (do not cross the dam) and then climbs to the foot of a rock bluff through remnant beech forest to the Lower Wye Creek basin.

8 THE DEVIL'S STAIRCASE

Here you'll find a driver's rest area and viewpoint of Lake Wakatipu.

KINGSTON

At the southernmost end of Lake Wakatipu is the pretty township of Kingston. The 47km lakeside drive from Queenstown is a stunning, winding road that follows Lake Wakatipu and The Remarkables mountain range toward Te Anau. Kingston's lakeside setting, relaxed vibe and activities like walking tracks, boating and fishing, make it a popular holiday destination for families.

9 THE SHIRTAIL TRACK

2 hr return walk
Te Kere Haka Scenic Reserve provides access to the Shirtail Track, with easy access to Shirtail Creek. Past the creek the track becomes rugged and steep with sections of loose gravel - care is required.

10 THE LAKEFRONT TRACK

30 min walk each way
A walking track winds around the lakeshore from the Kingston Lakefront Reserve for 30 minutes. Please do not go beyond this without the permission of the leaseholder.

11 MAVORA LAKES

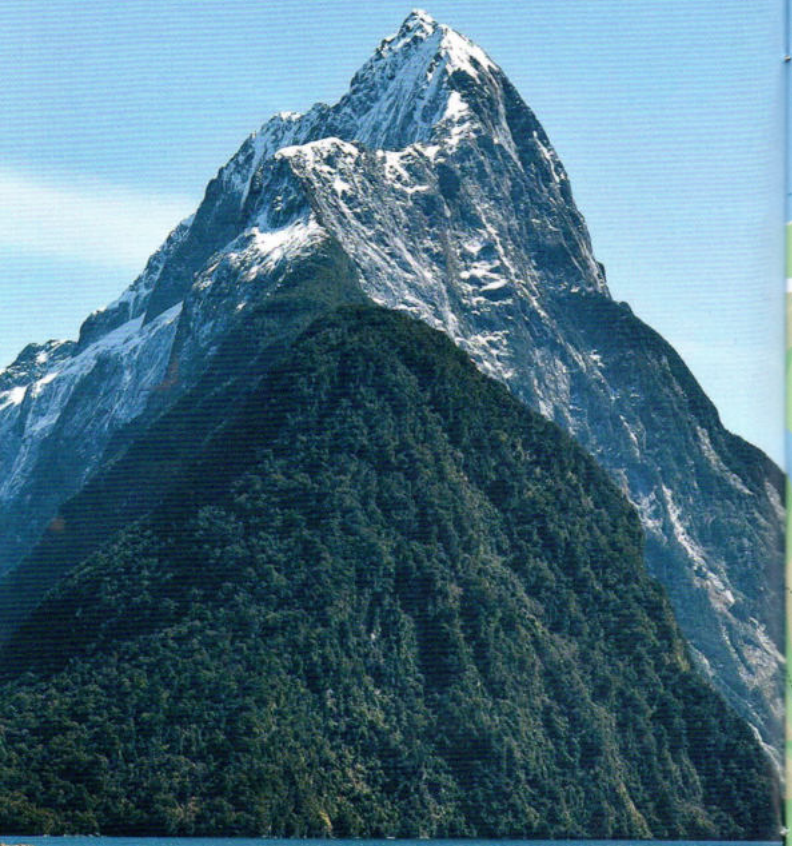
The Mavora Lakes area is an impressive landscape of mountains, lakes, forest and tussock, recognised as part of the Te Wahipounamu/South-West New Zealand World Heritage Area. Activities include trout fishing, water sports, horse trekking, tramping and mountain biking. The Mavora Lakes are located on State Highway 94 between Mossburn and Te Anau.

Must do...

Cycle the Queenstown Trail

FIORDLAND

The townships of Te Anau and Manapouri are the gateways to Fiordland National Park. Ideal to spend a few days in, this area offers a wide variety of activity, accommodation and restaurant options. Visiting the incredible grandeur of Milford Sound/Piopiotahi or Doubtful Sound/Patea, or undertaking any of the short walks and multiday hiking trails, are some of the key attractions to the region. With over 600 km of formed tracks, the region has earned a reputation as one of the world's finest walking destinations.



Southern Scenic Route
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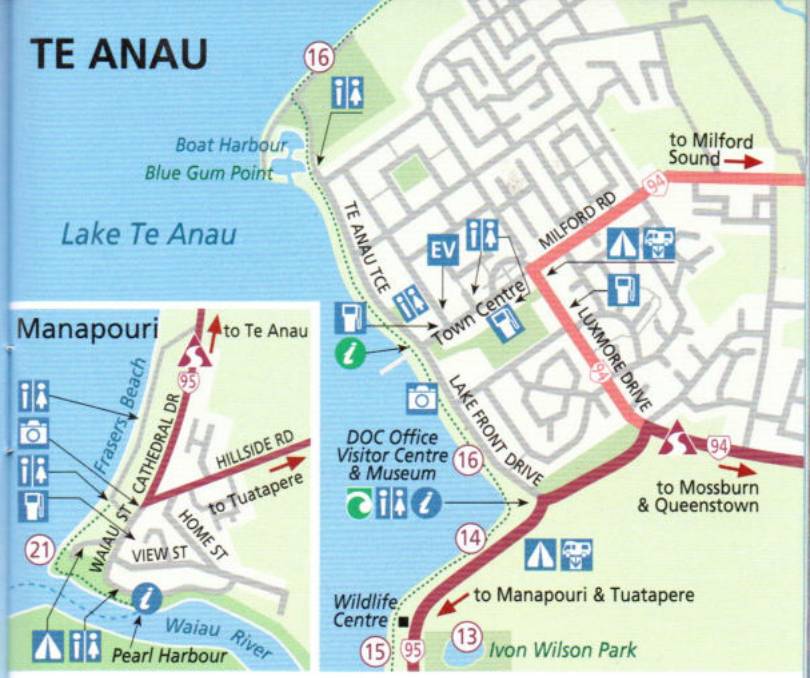
Milford Sound



FIORDLAND

TE ANAU
Te Anau is the Gateway to Fiordland being the closest town to Milford Sound and Doubtful Sound. The international reputation as the "Walking capital of the world" is well earned, with Te Anau being the departure point for many excellent walking tracks, including 3 of the New Zealand's Great Walks. A great place to base yourself while visiting the Sounds or experiencing the walking tracks.

TE WAHIPOUNAMU SOUTH WEST NEW ZEALAND WORLD HERITAGE AREA
World Heritage is a global concept that identifies natural and cultural sites of world significance - areas so special that protecting them is of concern for all people. Known to Maori as Te Wahipounamu (the place of greenstone), the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area incorporates: Aoraki/ Mount Cook, Westland/TaiPoutini, Fiordland and Mount Aspiring national parks - covering 2.6 million hectares of pristine wilderness. Some of the best examples of animals and plants once found on the ancient supercontinent Gondwana, live in this World Heritage Area.

FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTRE
Located on the lakefront in Te Anau, DOC staff can provide information on the many walks and multiday hikes available in the area, as well as advice and up-to-date information on weather and track conditions. A brochure of selected short walks in Fiordland can be obtained from the Visitor Centre. For information/ bookings visit: www.doc.govt.nz

MILFORD SOUND/ PIOPIOTAHI
5 hr return drive from Te Anau
World renowned, Milford Sound is New Zealand's only fiord accessible via road. Explore the many short walks and scenic-stopping points along the Milford Road itself– a spectacular alpine journey through a World Heritage National Park. A guided journey offers insights which add to the experience and leaves drivers free to enjoy the scenery. Pre-book in the peak season and check road conditions before departing, especially in winter. For information contact the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre.

12 THE WILDERNESS LOOKOUT
5 min
Situated on SH94,15 to 20min drive from Te Anau towards Mossburn. The viewing platform overlooks Halocarpus bidwillii (bog pine) forest, and offers 360º views of the Takitimu Mountains, foothills and farmland.

13 IVON WILSON PARK
Ivon Wilson Park is an open 35-hectare park with fantastic views of the Fiordland Mountains. The park is fantastic for families to visit with extensive plantings and many marked trails leading to the picturesque Lake Henry which is stocked with rainbow and brown trout. There is also a mountain bike track located in the reserve.

14 VISITOR CENTRE TO TE ANAU BIRD SANCTUARY
15 min walk each way
A lakeside path leads to the Te Anau Bird Sanctuary. Open from dawn until dusk, entry is by gold coin donation.

15 VISITOR CENTRE TO CONTROL GATES
50 min walk each way
Along the lakeshore from the Te Anau Bird Sanctuary, the control gates lie at the south western corner of Lake Te Anau, and regulate water flows between lakes for the West Arm hydro-electric power station. This is also the start of the Kepler Track.

16 VISITOR CENTRE TO BLUE GUM POINT BOAT HARBOUR
1 hour return walk
From the Visitor Centre, follow the Te Anau lakeshore towards the main shopping centre. This lakeside walk offers great views and family activity opportunities. Stop for a coffee or ice cream along the way to the boat harbour at Blue Gum Point. There are two playgrounds on this walk – Lions Park beside the Lakefront Church and another playground at Blue Gum Point.

17 CONTROL GATES TO DOCK BAY
1 hr return walk
A return walk on the first section of the Kepler Track. Starting from the control gates, a well-defined track follows the lakeshore through attractive stands of native forest. Dock Bay has great swimming and picnic facilities.

18 CONTROL GATES TO BROD BAY
3 hr return walk
Further on from Dock Bay, Brod Bay is another popular spot for boaties and day walkers to enjoy the beach and picnic facilities. A water taxi is available to return to Te Anau on a prearranged basis.

19 TE ANAU MANAPOURI CYCLE TRAIL
Follow the beautiful Waiau River between Te Anau and Manapouri, with plenty of places to stop and take in the scenery, have a picnic or look for fish! Cycle, walk or run along a wide and beautifully maintained trail which is accessible for all ages and abilities. Bike hire for half or full day is available in Te Anau.

20 RAINBOW REACH TO SHALLOW BAY
3 hr 30 min walk return
A gently undulating track through mountain beech forest with great river views. Some scenes in the Lord of the Rings movies were filmed here. The Shallow Bay Hut offers shelter and toilet facilities as does the nearby Moturau Hut.

MANAPOURI
The departure point for excursions to Doubtful Sound/ Patea and the West Arm Underground Power Station, Manapouri also offers a range of short walks accessible by water taxi. Contact the Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre for further information.

LAKE MANAPOURI
Called Roto-ua (rainy lake) and Moturau (many islands) by early Maori, environmentalists successfully campaigned to save the area's natural beauty in the 1960s, halting plans to raise the lake level to generate hydro-electricity.

DOUBTFUL SOUND/PATEA
8 hr return trip from Manapouri
The journey to Doubtful Sound starts with a boat ride across beautiful Lake Manapouri, followed by a bus journey over Wilmot Pass, through the pristine Fiordland National Park. A trip to the underground power station at West Arm is an interesting side excursion. Access to the Sound is by boat only via Manapouri. Local operators run guided excursions daily to Doubtful Sound.

21 FRASERS BEACH
45 min walk each way
A pleasant stroll along the Waiau River bank and Lake Manapouri shore from Pearl Harbour to Frasers Beach. There are exit points at several places back to the main road. The track is sign-posted from both the start and end points.

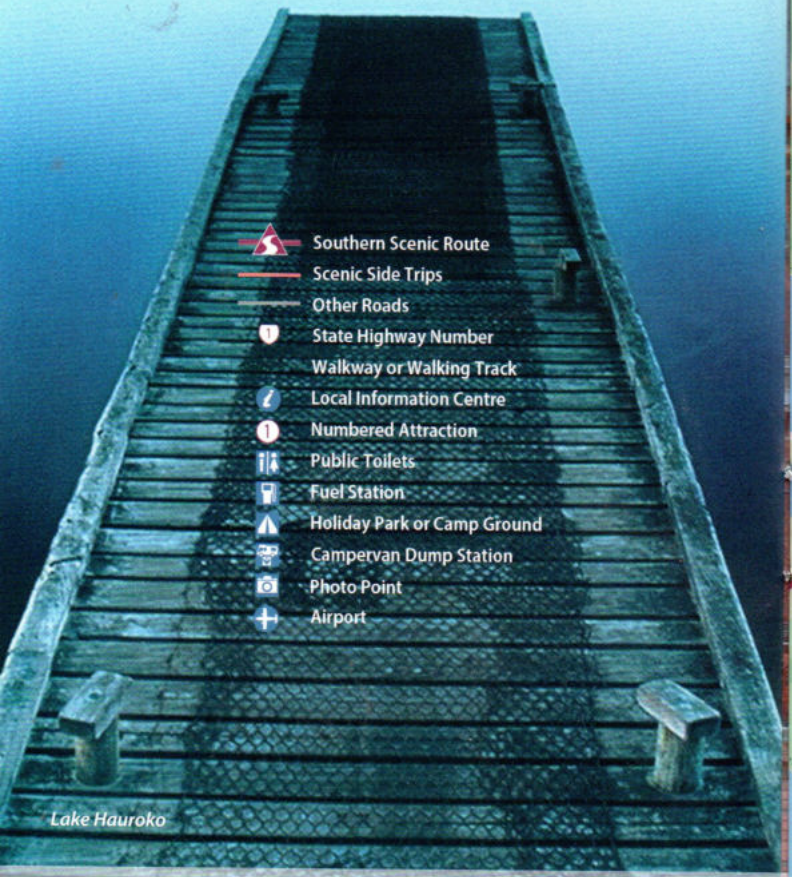
22 HOME CREEK
30 min loop walk
This 14 hectare parkland is located approx. 1 km east of Manapouri and is accessible via a sign-posted road off the Manapouri-Hillside Road. Home Creek is a naturally meandering stream originating in the internationally significant Kepler Mire and draining to the Waiau arm of Lake Manapouri. It is an important native fishery and habitat for brown trout.

Must see...
Lake Te Anau

WESTERN SOUTHLAND

You will find the area of Western Southland tucked between the towering peaks of Fiordland and the Takatimu mountain range with the wild ocean to the south. It boasts spectacular unspoilt scenery and limitless opportunities for exploring. Its home to the world class Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track, a 3 day loop track that takes hikers through diverse and stunning scenery, from sub-alpine wilderness to sea-level views.

Western Southland's main coastal stop Riverton, affectionately known as the Riviera of the South, is populated by an interesting mix of locals, artists and fishermen. This seaside town is set in a picturesque location that spans Jacob's River Estuary, framed by the vast, sweeping coastline. Surf's up at nearby Colac Bay/Oraka, where 'Porridge' ranks among New Zealand's top surfing spots. Look carefully from Te Waewae Bay and you may just catch a glimpse of New Zealand's largest pod of Hector's dolphins/pahu.



Lake Hauroko

Base maps Copyright © Allan J Kynaston

WESTERN SOUTHLAND

23 RAKATU WETLANDS AND REDCLIFF WILDLIFE RESERVE
Home to many waterfowl species, including scaup/papongo, grey teal/tete and paradise shelduck/putakitaki, these wetlands provide a network of walking and cycling tracks.

TE KOAWA TUROA O TAKITIMU
Managed by Kai Tahu, the site has mahika kai (producing or procuring food) values, plants, wildlife and fisheries. It represents a resource that can be used to further people's knowledge of mahika kai values. There are accommodation options and wheelchair-friendly facilities.

24 BORLAND ROAD AND BORLAND LODGE
Borland Road is a backcountry 4WD route to the South Arm of Lake Manapouri. Conditions on the narrow road can be treacherous, and it is often closed during winter months and occasionally in summer. Contact a DOC office for road conditions. The Borland Lodge Adventure and Education Trust provide a range of accommodation, conference and meeting facilities.

25 BORLAND NATURE WALK
40 min return walk
An easy short walk opposite Borland Lodge, through beech forest. This is one of the best places in Southland to see native mistletoe, which flowers in early summer.

26 LAKE MONOWAI
Monowai was one of the first New Zealand lakes to be harnessed for hydro-electric power production, and is a gateway to the southern part of Fiordland National Park.

27 THE PENINSULA LOOKOUT
30 min return
Walk through mature beech forest, to overlook the lower reaches of Lake Monowai.

28 LAKE HAUROKO
Hauroko means "the soughing of the wind". At 462 metres deep, this is New Zealand's deepest lake. The Wairaurahiri River leaves Lake Hauroko and flows through the Waitutu Forest to the south coast. Accessed from the Lillburn Valley Road, Lake Hauroko is signposted from Clifden. There are varied recreational opportunities in the area and commercial operators to help you explore. The Wairaurahiri River is the steepest river in New Zealand to be navigated by commercial jet-boat operators. The Lake Hauroko Bush Walk is an easy 40 min return loop walk.

29 BIG TOTARA WALK
30 min return
Signposted from the road to Lake Hauroko, a pleasant 12 km drive takes you to the track entrance. Along the track you will see some of the largest totara trees in Southland, which are over 1,000 years old.

30 CLIFDEN SUSPENSION BRIDGE
Construction of the suspension bridge started in 1898 when it replaced the punt used by early sheep stations.

31 CLIFDEN CAVES
These limestone caves are one of few cave systems in Southland, and are signposted along the Clifden Gorge Road. Ensure you have a good torch with spare batteries and warm clothing. Ask for advice at the nearest visitor centre.

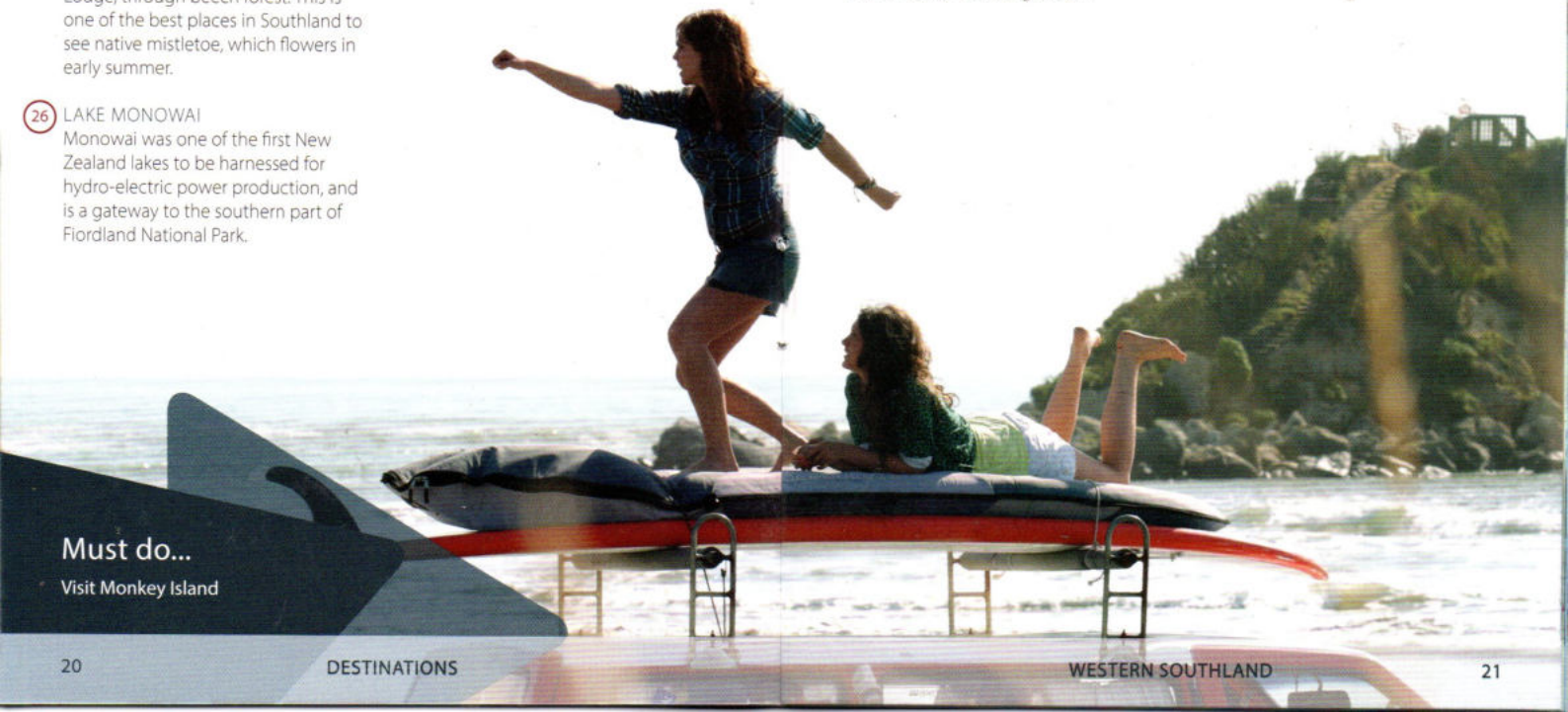
Warning - This cave system is subject to flash flooding. DO NOT enter during or immediately after heavy rain, or if rain events are forecast. To fully explore these caves, caving experience is essential.

TUATAPERE
The centre of a farming community, Tuatapere is often referred to as the 'Sausage Capital of New Zealand.' It has several art and craft galleries, and the Bushman's Museum displays a detailed account of the area's sawmilling history. A number of jet-boating, fishing and tramping opportunities are available.

32 TUATAPERE HUMP RIDGE TRACK
3 day/2 night hike
This circuit track has all the qualities of a 'Great Walk'. The first day leads hikers from sea-level up through native forest to the Hump Ridge, providing sweeping 360° views of the south coast far below, and the peaks of the Southern Alps marching northward. From the Hump Ridge, the track descends almost back to sea-level, and then traverses along old tram lines and across mighty wooden viaducts to the historic Port Craig. A bush and beach track following Te Waewae Bay completes the circuit on the third day. Bookings are required. Visit www.humpridgetrack.co.nz.
RARAKAU/BLUECLIFFS BEACH
This is the starting point for the Tuatapere Hump Ridge and South Coast tracks. Hector's dolphins/pahu can sometimes be seen from the beach, as too can Southern right whales/tohora.

33 PORT CRAIG
7 hr walk each way
The site of a 1920s timber mill and town. The only remaining historic building is the school, which is now DOC accommodation (more comfortable accommodation is provided by the Tuatapere Hump Ridge Track, bookings essential). A self-guided heritage trail takes visitors around relics of the town and mill site. The Percy Burn viaduct (approx 2 hr walk west from Port Craig) is a spectacular site.

34 MCCRACKENS REST
A viewing platform provides excellent views of Te Waewae Bay and the tiny one million year-old Solander Islands to the south - formed by the eroded skeleton of a volcano. According to Maori legend, the Solanders are the broken tooth and crumbs tossed aside by Kewa the whale, when it chewed between Rakiura Stewart Island and the mainland.



Must do...
Visit Monkey Island

35 GEMSTONE BEACH

Located ½ km north of Orepuki, Gemstone Beach is known for its constant state of change from sand to stones with the storms and tides. Semi-precious gems such as garnet, jasper, quartz and nephrite can often be found on the beach. It is also a great beach for surfing and surfcasting.

36 MONKEY ISLAND/ TE PUKA O TAKITIMU

Known by Kai Tahu as Te Puka o Takitimu, the island is the anchor stone of the legendary Takitimu waka/canoe, captained by Tamatea and wrecked at the mouth of the Waiau River. Access to the island is tide-dependent.

37 COSY NOOK

Cosy Nook is a rocky cove sheltering several fishing boats and cribs (holiday homes). Early European settlers reported Pahi's Village - a Kai Tahu settlement of forty houses was situated here. The small island, Matariki, was once a defended pa site.

38 LONG HILLY TRACK

2 hr return walk

Starting at Round Hill Road, 15 km west of Riverton, the Long Hilly Track explores regenerating native bush and relics from the little-known days of early Chinese goldmining activity in Southland - the largest Chinese settlement in New Zealand. The gravelled loop-track leads through a tramway cutting to old earth dams. A wide variety of native plants and birds can be found along the way.

39 COLAC BAY/ORAKA

A large statue of a surfer riding a wave greets visitors to Colac Bay/Oraka. First settled by early Maori, the rocky coastline, great sandy beach and surf continue to attract people to this small settlement.

RIVERTON/APARIMA

A popular seaside and holiday resort, Riverton/Aparima is known as the 'Riviera of the South'. Riverton/Aparima is rich in early Maori history and is one of the earliest European settlements in New Zealand. Visit the Te Hikoi Southern Journey Heritage Museum and take a photo with the infamous paua shell on the main road.

40 MORES SCENIC RESERVE

10 min to 3 hr walk

Mores Reserve, at the top of Richard Street (turn left at the end of the bridge over the estuary and follow the signs), offers several short walks and great views over Southland and Foveaux Strait/Te Ara a Kiwa towards Rakiura Stewart Island.

41 TARAMEA/HOWELLS POINT

At the end of the 'Rocks Highway'. This is a privately-owned recreation reserve and is a great place for walking, picnicking, fishing and bird watching. It offers spectacular views of Taramea Bay, Invercargill, Bluff and Rakiura Stewart Island.

THORNBURY

Visit the vintage farm machinery museum located at Thornbury, or the nearby Templeton Flax Mill and Heritage Museum (open by arrangement).

42 TE WAI KORARI WETLAND RESERVE

20 min return walk

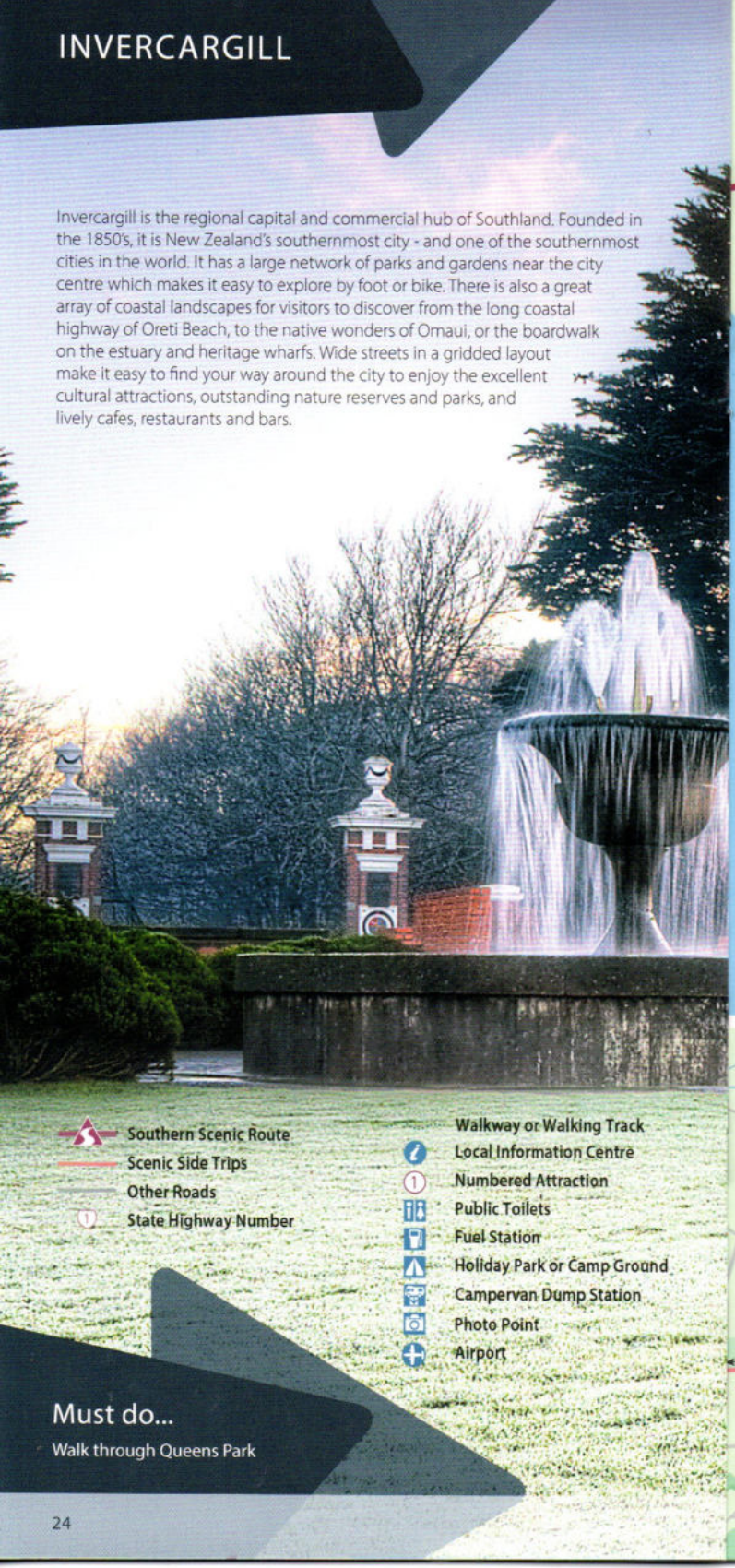
A short walking track starts at the eastern entrance to Riverton/Aparima (on the le hand side of the road heading to Invercargill), and leads down to loop through the 6 hectare flax wetland. This reserve provides a sanctuary for whitebait/inanga and other native fish. Part of the walk is along the beach at the edge of the estuary itself.

Must see...

Riverton Harbour

INVERCARGILL

Invercargill is the regional capital and commercial hub of Southland. Founded in the 1850's, it is New Zealand's southernmost city - and one of the southernmost cities in the world. It has a large network of parks and gardens near the city centre which makes it easy to explore by foot or bike. There is also a great array of coastal landscapes for visitors to discover from the long coastal highway of Oreti Beach, to the native wonders of Omaui, or the boardwalk on the estuary and heritage wharfs. Wide streets in a gridded layout make it easy to find your way around the city to enjoy the excellent cultural attractions, outstanding nature reserves and parks, and lively cafes, restaurants and bars.



- Southern Scenic Route
- Scenic Side Trips
- Other Roads
- State Highway Number
- Walkway or Walking Track
- Local Information Centre
- Numbered Attraction
- Public Toilets
- Fuel Station
- Holiday Park or Camp Ground
- Campervan Dump Station
- Photo Point
- Airport

Must do...

Walk through Queens Park

INVERCARGILL

43 ANDERSON PARK
Complete with sculptured lawns and rose gardens, the large park also features a traditional carved Maori house, duck pond and children's playground.

44 THOMSONS BUSH
Thomsons Bush is a remnant of the mainly kahikatea swamp forest that once covered much of Southland. The native vegetation is dominated by kahikatea, black pine/matai and ribbonwood. It provides opportunities for walks and picnics. It is located on both sides of Queens Drive, on the northern side of the Waihopai River.

45 QUEENS PARK
This is one of New Zealand's "Gardens of National Significance" and contains a rose garden, winter gardens, children's play area, aviary, animal enclosures, rhododendron dell, duck ponds, a golf course, café, fitness track and many other stunning features.

46 INVERCARGILL WATER TOWER
This 40m high historic tower is the city's best-known landmark. Completed in 1889, using 300,000 bricks, the tower was Invercargill's main water supply. The tower is no longer open to the public due to concerns about earthquake safety but it still provides a photo opportunity not to be missed.

47 WAIHOPAI WALKWAY
This walkway follows the Waihopai River from the Waihopai Dam to the Stead Street Bridge. The entire 15 km loop may take 4.5 hours, but it can be enjoyed in sections. The main access points are at Stead Street, North Road, Queens Drive and Racecourse Road.

48 SANDY POINT/OUE
Sandy Point/Oue is a natural playground 10km west of Invercargill - access is from Dunns Road, Otatara. A 13km network of signposted walking tracks makes it easy to explore the river banks, estuary and forest. There are mountain bike tracks to suit all skill levels and also network of tracks for horse-riding. The Visitor Centre on Sandy Point Road provides information on walks, flora, fauna and human history of the area.

50 ORETI BEACH
The sweeping sandy expanse of Oreti Beach was the trail used by Maori travelling between Riverton/Aparima and Sandy Point/Oue. The south end of the beach was called Ma Te Aweawe (Misty Way). Oreti Beach was used for some of Burt Munro's exploits and features in the movie "The World's Fastest Indian". The beach is 30 km long and the main vehicle entrance is at the end of Dunns Road, Otatara.

Must see...
Invercargill Water Tower

BLUFF

Bluff is the oldest European town in New Zealand, having been settled continuously since 1824. Mountain bike and walking tracks are accessible from car parks located at the summit of Bluff Hill, Gunpit Road and Stirling Point - the beginning of SH1 - recreation opportunities are vast. Be sure to visit the Bluff Maritime Museum and sample the famous Bluff Oyster in season.

49 BLUFF HILL/MOTUPOHUE AND STIRLING POINT
The Maori name for Bluff Hill is Motupohue (motu because of its island-like appearance from the sea, and pohue for the native convolvulus that flowers in the forest). Recognised as a place of cultural significance to Kai Tahu, Motupohue is a topuni site – derived from the traditional Kai Tahu custom of rangatira (chiefs) extending their mana (power and authority) over areas or people, by placing their cloaks over them. The 'Hill' has a network of short walks ranging from one to three hours in length. The summit of Bluff Hill/Motupohue provides spectacular views out to Foveaux Strait/Te Ara a Kiwa and across Southland. A visit to Bluff wouldn't be complete without a photo at the famous signpost at Stirling Point, pointing the way to major cities around the world, and marking the southern end of SH1 which runs the length of New Zealand.

51 GREENPOINT RESERVE
Signposted from SH1, immediately before the Greenpoint Cemetery. A well graded track and boardwalk follows the shoreline to Greenpoint, highlighting features of natural and historic interest that include a ship graveyard.

52 WAITUNA WETLANDS
Registered as a wetland of international significance, the Waituna Lagoon and wetlands is sign-posted on SH92. It is an important habitat for birds, native fish and trout, and is home to some unusual plants, many of which can be seen during a short walk (1.5 hr return) through the area.

RAKIURA STEWART ISLAND

Rakiura Stewart Island is home to Rakiura National Park, New Zealand's southern-most National Park. Rakiura is one of the Maori names given to the Island, which recalls glowing sunrises, sunsets and the aurora australis or 'Southern Lights'. View native birds on Ulva Island, enjoy short walks in the native bush around the town or for longer walking opportunities, try the multi-day hikes on the Rakiura Track, North West and Southern circuits. Visit the local Rakiura National Park Visitor Centre for more information. Flights to Rakiura Stewart Island operate daily from Invercargill Airport, or visitors can take a ferry or helicopter from Bluff.

THE CATLINS

The Catlins is truly remarkable with a wealth of natural wonders, where lush rainforest spills onto brilliant beaches and Mother Nature still rules supreme. Six spectacular waterfalls including the triple tiered cascade at Purakaunui could have been plucked from the pages of a fairy-tale. This incredible coastline is home to the World's rarest penguins, most endangered sea lions and smallest dolphins. The spectacular spur at Nugget Point with its lighthouse perched on a panoramic platform has sensational views. While at stunning Curio Bay the outgoing tide reveals a 180 million year old Jurassic forest, one of only three accessible fossil forests on the planet. Low tide is also the time to go to Cathedral Caves which have amazing acoustics and are one of the World's largest sea cave complexes. The Catlins also boasts beautiful birdlife and some of the best surfing in the country with the highest recorded winter waves.

Nugget Point Lighthouse

THE CATLINS

Base maps Copyright © Allan J Kynaston

THE CATLINS

53 WAIPAPA POINT
Shortened from the original Maori name of Waipapapa, meaning shallow waters, this is the site of New Zealand's worst civilian shipwreck. In 1881 the SS Tararua ran aground on Waipapa Reef and 131 of 151 passengers and crew died. The lighthouse, built after the disaster, stands as a poignant reminder. Sea lions/whakahao can be found on the beach and amongst the coastal tussock. Please follow theguidelines for appropriate behaviour around wildlife.

54 TARARUA ACRE CEMETERY
15 min return walk
Signposted from the Waipapa Point Lighthouse Road, the walk is across private property (closed during the lambing season September/October). The 'Tararua Acre' is where many of the victims of the SS Tararua shipwreck are buried.

55 SLOPE POINT
20 min return walk
The most southerly point on the South Island of New Zealand, Slope Point is a marked route across private farmland, giving good views of Rakiura Stewart Island, Bluff and the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter. The cliff tops are dangerous, so please take extra care.

56 WAIPOHATU RECREATION AREA
Maori legend has it that large hairy giants called Maeroero inhabited these valleys of bush. Two tracks in the area explore native forest. One easy walk (30 minutes return) is wheelchair accessible, and a larger hike (2 hrs each way) gives you the chance to really enjoy nature.

57 CURIO BAY/TUMU TOKA AND PORPOISE BAY
Few places offer such scenic, wildlife and recreational values in one small area. Tumu Toka, translates to 'hardened wood' or 'stump of wood' - a reference to the ancient fossil forest with imprints of fallen trees and ferns from 180 million years ago, that can be accessed at low tide. A small population of endangered yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho nest nearby. For their protection, dogs are not permitted at the fossilised forest or campground. From the camping ground there is access to Porpoise Bay, a popular swimming and surfing spot. During summer, you may see the rare Hector's dolphin/upokohue swimming in the bay.

58 WAIKAWA
The Waikawa Museum has numerous displays relating to the early settlers and their industries of this once bustling port town. Short walk options include the Old Coach Road (20 minutes return, and only passable at low tide), and the George Aitken Walk (20 minutes return).

59 NIAGARA FALLS/MANGA PIRI
Niagara Falls was named by a surveyor with an obvious sense of humour! A special site called a nohoanga is situated on part of the Waikawa River nearby, signifying its importance for gathering traditional food for Kai Tahu whanau.

60 MCLEAN FALLS
40 min return walk
The Catlins highest and perhaps most spectacular falls are just a twenty minute walk from the car park through enchanting native rainforest.

61 CATHEDRAL CAVES
50 min return walk
Mother Nature decides when these incredible sea caves soaring 30 metres skywards from the sandy shore are open. Visit either side of low tide between October and May for only a small entry charge. Check if they are open at www.cathedralcaves.co.nz.

62 LENZ RESERVE
Get into the heart of the Catlins Conservation Park and spot some very special wildlife like forest gecko, green tree frogs and 16 native fish species. There are walking trails and even accommodation in the Tautuku Forest Cabins. For more information visit www.forestandbird.org.nz.

63 TAUTUKU ESTUARY BOARDWALK
30 min return walk
Take a delightful short stroll through this special hidden haven and into the estuary where it feels like a secret eco-amphitheatre.

64 LAKE WILKIE
30 min return walk
Tranquillity and serenity await at this peat lake famed for its mirror like reflections. Interpretation panels tell the tale of this unique forest habitat. Suitable for wheelchairs to the first top viewing point.

65 TAUTUKU BAY
15 min return walk to the beach
This stunning sweeping stretch of sand can be reached via the reserve or on a bush path opposite the Outdoor Education Centre where the pounding surf and birdsong is the only soundtrack.

66 FLORENCE HILL LOOKOUT
This lookout offers spectacular views of Tautuku Bay and Peninsula one way with equally stunning Tahakopa Bay and Long Point the other way. The area has superb surfing spots.

PAPATOWAI
Papatowai means where the forest meets the sea and visitors can see why. This little village is nestled in native bush with amazing beaches and coastal walks. There are wonderful waterfalls nearby like magnificent Matai and majestic McLean while Florence Hill offers breath-taking views over the Tautuku Peninsula. Venture onto a magical, mystical boardwalk into sacred wetlands or the serene sanctuary that is Lake Wilkie. There is also one of the world's largest sea cave complexes to explore, called "Cathedral Caves" because of their sheer size and amazing acoustics. Also search out the quirky gem that could only be the Lost Gypsy with their incredible gizmos and gadgets.

67 COASTAL WALKING TRACKS
40 min to 1 hr return walk
A variety of wonderful walks with the chance to encounter yellow eyed penguins, sea lions and oystercatchers on these breathtakingly beautiful beaches and estuary.

Must see...
Waipapa Point Lighthouse

68 OLD COACH ROAD
40 min to 3 hr return walk
This 40 minute return walk from the Tahakopa River Bridge travels through the southern-most stand of sliver beech and tree ferns, past an important Maori moa hunter archaeological site and onto a delightful deserted beach. Feeling more adventurous? Then take the signposted 3 hour "Old Possumers Track".

69 MATAI FALLS
30 min return walk
Two wonderful waterfalls cascade next to each other. There is also an hour long heritage trail following the old train tracks which were used till 1971.

70 PURAKAUNUI FALLS
20 min return walk
These magical falls are perhaps New Zealand's most photographed and have even featured on a postage stamp. Once you see them it's easy to understand why! The track through the rainforest is suitable for wheelchair users.

71 CATLINS RIVER-WISP LOOP TRACK
Two 12km routes that can be walked either way. You can choose to do sections or tackle the whole trail as a two day or long one day tramp. You can also mountain bike the Wisp Loop. The Rocky Knoll extension track is well worth the climb offering some knockout views.

72 JACKS BLOWHOLE
1 hr return walk
Jack's blowhole is a 55 metre deep sunken sea cave 200 metres inland from the ocean, connected by a tunnel. It is a rewarding half hour walk to the top with fabulous views across Jack's Bay and beyond. Please do not disturb stock.

OWAKA
In the heart of The Catlins, Owaka means "the place of canoe" hence the town's steel sculpture. Owaka's marvellous Museum is like a 3D storybook showcasing the area's rich wildlife as well as Maori and early settler history. Surrounded by stunning steep rainforest clad valleys and a tidal lake, Owaka and Pounawea have plenty of places to stay and the world famous Purakaunui Falls are just down the road. Nearby Surat and Cannibal Bays are rightly renowned for their seals and sea lions.

73 POUNAWEA BUSH WALK TRACK
45 min return walk
Ecologically important because of rare vegetation and virgin podocarp forest, this return walk takes 45 minutes but the saltmarsh area can only be reached at low tide.

74 SURAT BAY WILDLIFE WALK
30 min return walk
This track through sand dunes is a great way to experience the world's rarest sea lions. Stay out of sight and don't get too close!

75 TUNNEL HILL
20 min return
Built by hand in the 1890's and lined with locally made bricks, this is the southernmost rail tunnel in the country. An easy walk from the car park but do take a torch.

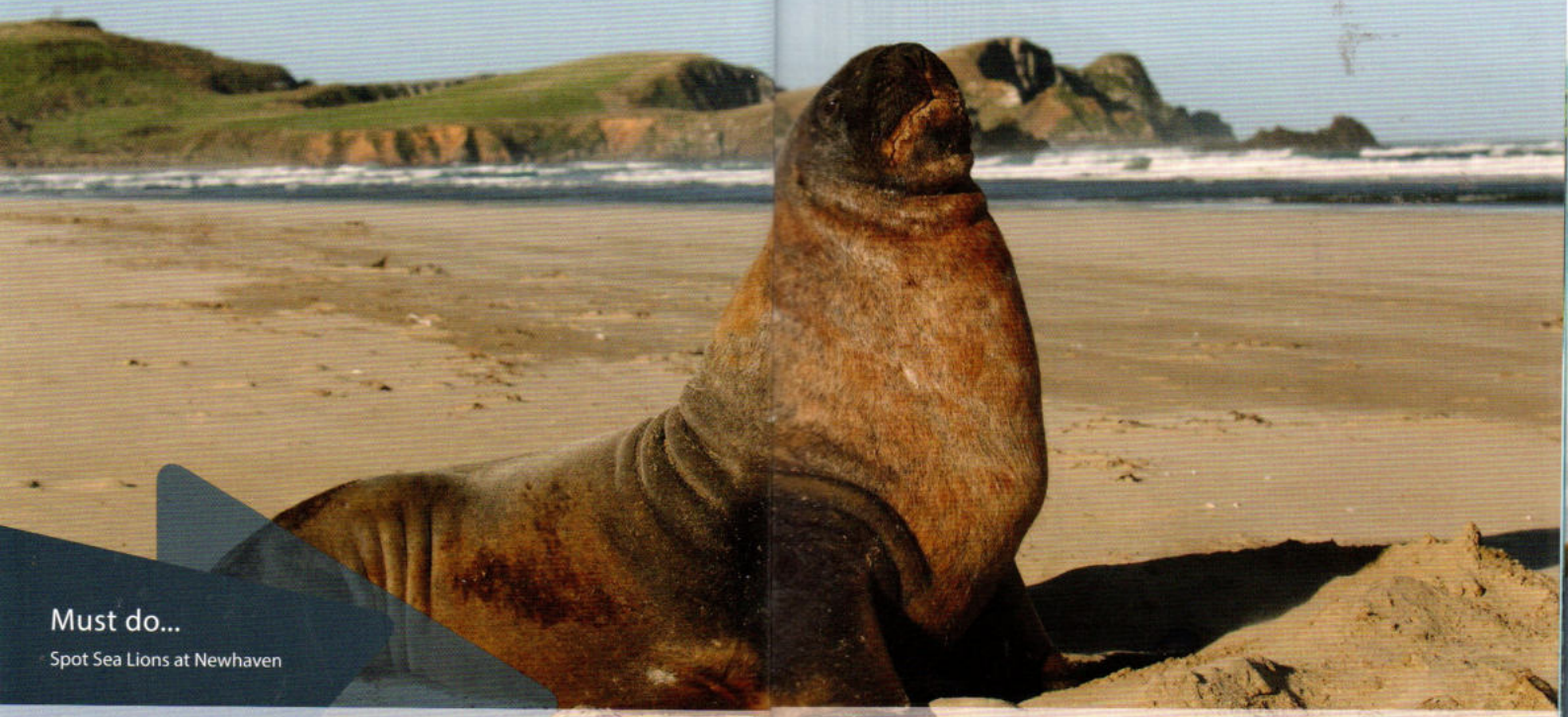
76 ROARING BAY
10 min return walk
This lovely little cove next to iconic Nugget Point has a perfectly placed hide to spot rare yellow eyed penguins. It's a short stroll to the hide and the best time to view the penguins is as they return from sea in the evening just after sunset.

77 NUGGET POINT/TOKATA LIGHTHOUSE
20 min return walk
This spot boasts amazing wildlife with chances to see fur seals, sea lions and elephant seals. It's a 10 minute walk to the lighthouse with stupendous views into the big blue beyond punctuated by the famous nugget rock formations.

KAKA POINT
A secret surfing spot with stunning scenery and a wealth of wildlife. This seaside settlement is a suitably splendid introduction to the captivating Catlins. The highlight has to be nearby Nugget Point with its lighthouse, fabulous rock formations and staggeringly spectacular views! But it gets better - this is one of the only spots in the country where you can see fur seals, sea lions and elephant seals in the same place. Next door Roaring Bay is home to the very rare and very beautiful yellow eyed penguins.

78 KAKA POINT BUSH WALK
30 min return walk
A lovely short bush walk which feels secluded from the modern world but is actually only a stone's throw from the quaint seaside settlement of Kaka Point.

79 AWAKIKI BUSH SCENIC RESERVE
30 min return walk
An easy going loop walk through farmland where visitors can explore an outstanding 300 year old example of lowland totara forest. To get there turn off at Awakiki road, just past Telford Campus.



Must do...
Spot Sea Lions at Newhaven

CLUTHA

The Clutha district is unique and unspoilt, with the rugged splendour and amazing wildlife of the Catlins, one of New Zealand's finest eco destinations - which is really saying something. The rich history of Lawrence, the original Otago gold rush town with a fantastic cycle trail, giving a real taste of that heritage. Clutha is named after the country's largest, fastest river which is the region's beating heart with its incredible emerald colour.

Balclutha is Clutha's largest town famous for its arched bridge over its namesake. There is a lovely river walk and you can follow the mighty Clutha to Kaitangata where it pours into the ocean with endless deserted beaches to explore.

80 NAISH PARK AND BLAIR ATHOL WALKWAY
2 hr return walk
Enter via Charlotte Street in Balclutha and follow the mighty Clutha River through a fabulous array of flora and fauna with a dazzling spring display of rhododendrons. This track can also be explored by bike.

81 SOD COTTAGE
Made of mud and straw, Sod Cottage is between Milton and Balclutha and was built as a stopover for gold miners seeking fame and fortune back in the 1860's. It's always open.

MILTON
The town's main landmark is the Gothic-inspired Church which opened in 1889. The almost forgotten coast around beautiful Bull Creek, Chrystall's Beach and Toko mouth is only a short drive away. The Mcnally's track gives a bird's eye view of the town and the verdant rolling green backdrop.

82 WHALE FOSSIL LOOKOUT
Spectacular views of Lake Waihola and be amazed by the rare dolphin and whale fossils found in the nearby lime quarries that are a simply staggering 24–34 million years old.

WAIHOLA
This town lies next to the most inland tidal lake in New Zealand which offers kayaking, fishing, and a pontoon with water slides, making it a fantastic place to relax and unwind. There is fresh fish for sale from the fleets at nearby Taieri Mouth and the lake is surrounded by a wetland wildlife haven with wonderful walks.

83 SINCLAIR WETLANDS/TE NOHOAKA A TUKIAUAU
Peaty lagoons, a labyrinth of waterways, and two islands make up this special spot where an abundance of food attracts all sorts of birds and other wildlife. Walk out to Ram Island from the car park, just follow signs from SH1.

84 PICNIC GULLY TRACK
45 min return walk
This track boasts beautiful bush and lovely views. It starts 400m south of the bridge at Taieri Mouth, crosses a fence midway up the gully as it passes from the reserve into private land and eventually leads up out of the gully and onto Finlayson Road.

TAIERI MOUTH
Dazzling white sand blends with a beautiful bush backdrop as the river meets the sea at this sumptuous spot. Saunter out to the nearby island at low tide or take a stroll and discover delights like Taieri Gorge, Picnic and John Bull Gullies.

85 86 TAIERI RIVER AND MILLENNIUM TRACKS
4 hr return walk
This is a 4 hr return trek where the Taieri River and Millennium tracks meet at the rather wonderful John Bull Gully. Good footwear is essential.

Lake Waihola
Image Credit: Karenne Walker

DUNEDIN

Ōtepoti Dunedin - the perfect place to explore New Zealand's heritage and wildlife. Historic Ōtepoti Dunedin is renowned for its abundance of Victorian and Edwardian architecture, as well as its proximity to rare wildlife. The Dunedin Railway Station, Otago University and First Church are fine examples of the fascinating early history of the city, which is laid out in the spectacular new Toitu Otago Settlers Museum.

The city stretches around a long and beautiful harbour sheltered by the stunning Otago Peninsula, home to a colony of one of the world's rarest penguins. It also boasts the only mainland breeding colony of the Royal Albatross, and its rugged coastline is frequented by rare New Zealand Hooker sea lions.

Ōtepoti Dunedin offers a huge choice of activities to keep you busy for days - from museums and art galleries to harbour cruises or brewery tours. Visit Olveston for an intimate glimpse of Dunedin lifestyle in the Edwardian era or take a train ride back in time through the rugged Taieri Gorge in a historic train carriage.

Enjoy the café culture in and around the Octagon at the centre of the city and try a few of the award winning restaurants, particularly those specialising in seafood. If your stay includes a Saturday be sure to visit the Farmers Market, held next to the Railway Station.

Royal Albatross Colony

ŌTEPOTI DUNEDIN

87 BRIGHTON

The sleepy seaside village of Brighton is a wonderful family-friendly destination where you can swim safely, sit in the creek, have a picnic or barbecue, and fossick in rock pools. You can surf at Brighton - writer James K. Baxter grew up in the town - and it is the destination of the annual Dunedin to Brighton Veteran Car Rally.

FOOTING IT

The inner city is compact, with iconic heritage buildings including First Church, the Municipal Chambers and Dunedin Railway Station, with a stroll of Dunedin's central Octagon. Follow the heritage trails or sign up for a guided walk at the centrally located iSite. Gardens, both public and private, adorn the city and provide year-round interest. Further afield are many short walks and hikes to stunning vistas or interesting locations.

88 DUNEDIN BOTANIC GARDEN

Dunedin's Botanic Garden opened in 1869, making it the oldest in New Zealand. Designated a Garden of International Significance by The New Zealand Gardens Trust, it is famous for its rhododendron dell. Explore the thoughtfully planned layout known for its camellias, roses, and extensive native planting.

89 BALDWIN STREET

Stretch your calf muscles on one of the world's steepest streets – Baldwin Street in North Dunedin.

90 SIGNAL HILL

Otago Harbour, from Taiaroa Heads at the Harbour entrance to the city suburbs sprawling along it's undulating coastline, can be seen in its magnificent entirety from the lookout at Signal Hill, only minutes from the city centre.

GET ACTIVE

Dunedin is a mecca for outdoor pursuits enthusiasts with opportunities abounding to test yourself against the environment. Surfers will discover that the combination of diverse landscapes, big Southern Ocean swells, presents great waves, both for learners and the most experienced of thrill seekers. Mountain bikers will find operators who offer bike hire to explore some of the many tracks developed in the hills surrounding the city. Golfers can take their pick of the myriad of courses available; from the first golf club opened in New Zealand at the historic Balmacewen Golf Course, to the links course at Chisholm Park, or the magnificent cliff top scenery of St Clair Golf Course.

91 ST CLAIR

St Clair offers seaside delights just ten minutes from Dunedin's Octagon. A popular destination since Victorian times, you can walk or surf here, or kick back and enjoy the Esplanade's bars, cafes or restaurants. St Clair's therapeutic Hot Salt Water Pool, open October – March, is a local institution. Drive to the Esplanade via Caversham and Forbury Road.

92 TUNNEL BEACH TRACK

1 hr return

A steep track and narrow, stepped tunnel lead down to this romantic and secluded beach, once the private domain of the powerful Cargill family. White sandstone cliffs and curious wind, sea and rain-sculpted stacks add to the atmosphere here. Tunnel Beach is approximately 7 km south of Dunedin. Turn from Blackhead Road onto the seaward branch of Green Island Bush Road. Closed for lambing (August through October).

OTAGO PENINSULA

A breathtaking natural environment on the doorstep of Dunedin City, Otago Peninsula is home to artists and gardeners, rare and protected native bird and marine mammal species and internationally acclaimed ecotourism operations. Discover the intriguing history and romance at Larnach Castle, New Zealand's only castle. Walk, drive, cycle or kayak it - there's something for everyone. From Dunedin the two main routes to the peninsula are clearly marked. For Sandymount and Sandfly Bay take the Highcliff Road, and for Allans Beach take the Coast Road to Portobello.

WILDLIFE

Explore the Otago Peninsula and get face to face with the wildlife that dwells on this dramatic natural landscape. Discover some of New Zealand's rarest wildlife with local experts from The Royal Albatross Centre, Natures Wonders, and Penguin Place or gain a different perspective on a Monarch Wildlife Cruise. Please treat any wildlife you encounter with care and follow any instructions on signposts. Give sea lions a wide berth (20 m), retreat if you see penguins approaching.

93 SANDFLY BAY

1 hr return

Turn off Highcliff Road onto Sandymount Road, then right onto Seal Point Road to reach the carpark. A path crosses farmland to the sand dunes. Go down the sand hill - which can be rather testing on the return, uphill journey - and walk about 1 km along the beach. Near the southern end a marked track leads up to a hide to view the yellow-eyed penguins/hoiho.

94 SANDYMOUNT

1 hr return

The circuit track begins at the carpark at the end of Sandymount Road. This walk via The Chasm and Lovers Leap - with a side track to Sandymount summit - gives spectacular views of Otago Peninsula's coastline and cliff tops. Another marked route provides alternative access to Sandfly Bay. The Lovers Leap and Chasm tracks are closed for lambing (August through October).

95 HEYWARD POINT TRACK

2 hr return

There are two starting points: off Aramoana Road, 50 m before Pari Street, and at the end of Heyward Point Road, which is off the road From Port Chalmers to Purakaunui and Long Beach. There are great views from this cliff top track. To the right, Taiaroa Head and the mouth of Otago Harbour, and to the left, views up Otago's east coast. After following the cliff tops the track descends through regenerating bush to the more exposed Heyward Point. Closed for lambing (August through October).

Must see...

Dunedin Railway Station

SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

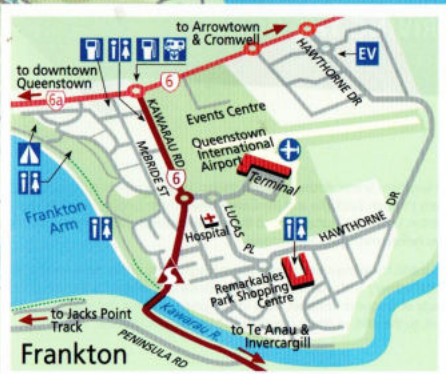
- Southern Scenic Route
- Scenic Side Trips
- Other Roads
- State Highway Number
- Walkway or Walking Track
- i-SITE Visitor Centre
- Local Information Centre
- Numbered Attraction
- Public Toilets
- Fuel Station
- Holiday Park or Camp Ground
- Campervan Dump Station
- Photo Point
- Airport

N

Milford Sound/Piopiotahi
Milford Sound
Darran Mtns
Homer Tunnel
Milford Track
Hollyford River
Franklin Mtns
Stuart Mtns
Earle Mtns
Eglinton Valley
Murchison Mtns
Lake Te Anau
Kepler Track
Kepler Mtns
Doubtful Sound
Patea
West Arm
Lake Manapouri
Manapouri
Bradshaw Sound
Dusky Sound
Fiordland National Park
Princess Mtns
Lake Monowai
Waiau R.
Lake Hauroko
Tuatapere
Hump Ridge Track
Longwood Range
Takitimu Mtns
Te Anau Downs
TE ANAU
WESTERN SOUTHLAND
Mossburn
Eyre Mtns
Aparima R.
Taringatua Hills
Hokonui Hills
Wanaka
Glenorchy
Arrowtown
QUEENSTOWN
Lake Wakatipu
Frankton
The Remarkables
Cardrona
Pisa Range
Dunstan Mtns
Cromwell
Clyde
Alexandra
Old Man Range
Kopuanui
Kingston
Garston
Athol
Five Rivers
Lumsden
Mataura R.
Winton
Otautau
Oreti R.
Edendale
Wyndham
Gore
Thornbury
Riverton Aparima
Orepuki
Colac Bay/Oraka
Lorneville
INVERCARGILL
Tokanui
Fortrose
Bluff
Foveaux Strait
ferry thr
Mt Anglem/Hananui
Oban
Stewart Island/Rakiura
THE CATLINS
Waikawa
Curio Bay
Papatowai
Owaka
Kaka Point
BALCLUTHA
Clinton
Lawrence
Blue Mtns
Clutha Mata-au R.
Milton
Waihola
Taieri Mouth
Brighton
DUNEDIN
Mosgiel
Outram
Otago Peninsula
Taieri River
Roxburgh
Lammerlaw Range
Middlemarch
Rock & Pillar Ra.
Hawkdun Ra.

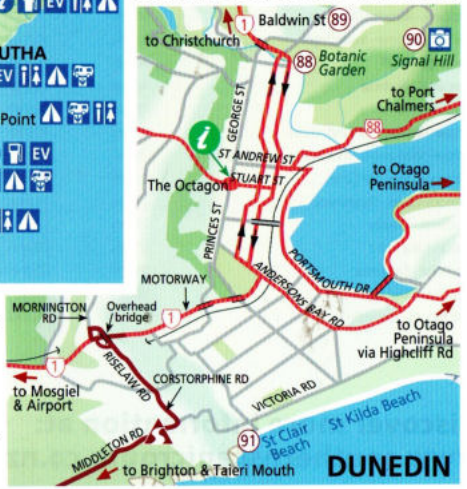
0 10 20 30 40km

Base maps Copyright © Allan J Kynaston



ROUTES INTO AND OUT OF FRANKTON, QUEENSTOWN

ROUTES INTO AND OUT OF DUNEDIN



For locations of public toilets fuel stations, dump stations and holiday parks please refer to free Dunedin map available at the Dunedin i-SITE Visitor Centre

DRIVING THE ROUTE

The Southern Scenic Route, covering 610km, begins or ends in Dunedin city and travels through Balclutha and the Catlins area to Invercargill city before taking in Riverton, Colac Bay, Tuatapere and the gateways to Fiordland: Manapouri and Te Anau before ending in Queenstown.

This scenic travelling route guides you through some of the most spectacular coastal scenery and rural settings in New Zealand. The journey features contrasting beauty of unique landscapes, from rolling green pastures and native New Zealand forest, to the wild southern coastline and looming mountains.

THE SOUTHERN SCENIC ROUTE

Section	Distance	Driving Time
Queenstown - Frankton	7 km	10 min
Frankton - Kingston	40 km	30 min
Kingston - Athol	20 km	15 min
Athol - Five Rivers	23 km	15 min
Five Rivers - Mossburn	20 km	15 min
Mossburn - Te Anau	60 km	45 min
Te Anau - Milford Sound/Piopiotahi	120 km	2 hr 20 min
Te Anau - Manapouri	22 km	15 min
Manapouri - Tuatapere	79 km	1 hr
Tuatapere - Riverton/Aparima	48 km	50 min
Riverton/Aparima - Invercargill	38 km	40 min
Invercargill - Bluff	30 km	25 min
Invercargill - Fortrose	46 km	50 min
Fortrose - Tokanui	13 km	10 min
Fortrose - Waikawa (inland route)	32 km	40 min
Fortrose - Waikawa (coastal route, partly unsealed)	36 km	45 min
Waikawa - Cathedral Caves	26 km	30 min
Cathedral Caves - Papatowai	12 km	15 min
Papatowai - Owaka	26 km	30 min
Owaka - Kaka Point	21 km	20 min
Kaka Point - Balclutha	21 km	20 min
Balclutha - Taieri Mouth	50 km	1 hr
Taieri Mouth - Dunedin	35 km	45 min

Discover more information at:
www.southernscenicroute.co.nz

Visitor Information

I-SITE VISITOR CENTRES

Queenstown
Corner of Camp and Shotover Street (under the clock tower), Queenstown
Ph: (03) 442 4100
E: info@queenstownisite.co.nz
Open hours:
Mon - Sun 8.30am - 9pm
Hours may vary seasonally

Fiordland
19 Town Centre, Te Anau
Ph: (03) 249 8900
E: fiordland-iSITE@realjourneys.co.nz
Open hours:
Summer
Mon - Sun 8.30am - 6pm
Winter
Mon - Sun 8.30am - 5pm

Balclutha
1 John Street, Balclutha
Ph: (03) 418 0388
E: clutha.vin@cluthadc.govt.nz
Open hours:
Summer
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm
Sat & Sun 9.30am - 3.30pm
Winter
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5.00pm
Sat & Sun 10am - 2pm

Dunedin
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
Ph: (03) 474 3300
E: visitor.centre@dcc.govt.nz
Open hours:
Summer
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6pm
Sat & Sun 8.45am - 6pm
Winter
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5pm
Sat & Sun 8.45am - 5pm

Note: Some visitor centres may close on Christmas Day and other public holidays

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

DOC VISITOR CENTRES

Queenstown Visitor Centre
50 Stanley Street, Queenstown
Ph: (03) 442 7935
Open hours:
Mon - Sun 8am - 5pm
Hours may vary seasonally

Fiordland National Park Visitor Centre
Lakefront Drive, Te Anau
Ph: (03) 249 7924
Open hours:
Summer
Mon - Sun 8am - 5pm
Winter
Mon - Sun 8.30am - 4.30pm

Dunedin Visitor Centre
50 The Octagon, Dunedin
Ph: (03) 477 0677
Open hours:
Summer
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6pm
Sat & Sun 8.45am - 5.30pm
Winter
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 5pm
Sat & Sun 8.45am - 5pm

Visit...
www.i-site.org.nz
www.doc.govt.nz

Tag your photos!

#SOUTHERNSCENICROUTE

This brochure is produced by the Southern Scenic Route Steering Group whose members are shown below. Please visit our websites to learn more about local accommodation and activity options, conservation, recreation opportunities and driving conditions.

Queenstown NEW ZEALAND

- www.queenstownnz.nz
- QueenstownNZ
- Queenstown NZ
- queenstownnz
- PureQueenstown

BEYOND BELIEF FIORDLAND

- www.fiordland.org.nz
- fiordland.org.nz
- FiordlandNZ
- fiordland.nz
- Fiordland_NZ

Southland New Zealand

- www.southlandnz.com
- NZsouthland
- Southland NZ
- southland.nz
- Southland_NZ

Clutha

- www.cluthanz.com
- CluthaNewZealand
- Clutha NZ
- cluthanz
- CluthaNZ

dunedin

- www.dunedinnz.com
- DunedinNZ
- Dunedin NZ
- dunedinnz
- Lovedunedin

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

- www.doc.govt.nz

NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY WAKA KOTAHI

- www.nzta.govt.nz

To re-order more, contact: orders@visitorpoint.co.nz

Must see...

Dunedin Street Art Trail

Chasing the Thin White Cloud, Fintan Magee

SOUTHERN
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Discover more information at:
www.southernscenicroute.co.nz
www.southernscenicroute.co.nz